



Welcome to Big Cypress National Preserve. Please take the time to read this brochure. Knowing these rules and regulations will assist you in having a safe and enjoyable visit to this National Park Service unit.

For the purpose of this document “Off-Road Vehicles” (ORVs) or “All-Terrain Vehicles” (ATVs) refer to motorized vehicles, including All Terrain Cycles (ATCs), swamp buggies, street legal-4-wheel drive vehicles, and airboats. Wheeled vehicles must have three or more tires.

FEDERAL REGULATIONS, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND NPS POLICIES RELATED TO ORV USE AND THE ORV PLAN

Under existing regulations published in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1.5, the superintendent has the authority to limit public use based on the determination that such action is necessary to maintain public safety and health, protect the environmental or scenic values, protect natural or cultural resources, aid scientific research, implement management responsibilities, provide equitable allocation and use of facilities, or avoid conflict among visitor use activities.

AREAS CLOSED TO MOTORIZED USE

- A one-mile wide buffer zone parallel to U.S. Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail) is closed to ORV use except on designated trails to cross the zone from designated access points.
- Zone 4 Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Protection Area continues to be closed to ORV use - see map
- Loop Unit, Deep Lake Unit and Copeland Prairie areas continue to be closed to ORV use - see map
- The Preserve is closed to ORV use between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- 11-mile road is closed to motorized travel, except vehicles may cross at designated points.
- The Florida National Scenic Trail is closed to motorized travel, except vehicles may cross the trail.
- All prairies are closed to ORV use.
- Any zone may close temporarily due to environmental and emergency conditions. This is especially true of Zone 4, which may be closed due to hydrologic conditions.
- An annual 60-day seasonal closure to all ORV use throughout the Preserve has generally been starting in June, but the dates may vary.

VEHICLE ACCESS TABLE

Vehicle Type Unit	Swamp Buggy	All Terrain Cycle	Street Legal 4X4	Airboats	Trail Type
Bear Island Access 1 &1A	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Designated Trails
Turner River Access 2,3,4,5,6,8,10	Yes	Yes	No	No	Dispersed Use
Corn Dance Access 8 & 9	Yes	Yes	No	No	Dispersed Use
Stairsteps Zone #4 Access 14 &15	No	No	No	Yes	Designated Trails
CLOSED AREAS	THESE AREAS CLOSED TO ALL ORV USE				
Stairsteps Zones 2 and 3	No	No	No	No	
Loop Unit	No	No	No	No	
Highway 41 Buffer	No	No	No	No	
Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow Habitat	No	No	No	No	
Copeland Prairie	No	No	No	No	
Prairies	No	No	No	No	
Stairsteps Zone #1	No	No	No	No	
Deep Lake	No	No	No	No	

ACCESS POINTS

Access points are designated on the map on the reverse side of this brochure. Bulletin board and backcountry permit dispensers are maintained at all access points. Be sure to check the bulletin board for special advisories.

The Burns Lake access point is located at the north end of Burns Lake Road, approximately 1.5 miles east and then north of Burns Lake Campground.

PERMITS

The following permits are required for ORV use within the Preserve (these permits are listed in the order you must obtain them):

- inspection permit on the vehicle (free at the visitor center upon vehicle meeting specifications)
- Driver must possess an ORV operator's "license" (free after taking orientation course at the visitor center) note: must possess valid state driver's license or learner's permit (and accompanied by a licensed adult 18 years or older)
- ORV permit on the vehicle (\$50.00 at the visitor center, must be renewed annually)
- backcountry use permit (free at trailhead)

Further information about the permitting process is available at the visitor center or on the website (see contact information section at end of this brochure)

Owners of private property within the preserve boundaries can be issued a free special use permit that allows them reasonable access to and from their private property if needed. A property owner who holds a recreational permit does not need

a special use permit unless their property is in a closed area and/or they want access during the 60-day closure. Recreational use of ORVs by these private property owners other than directly to and from their property requires the same permit as non-property owners.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

YOU ARE REQUIRED TO KNOW ALL RULES AND REGULATIONS.

- Vehicles must meet specifications, permit requirements and be of the proper type for each unit.
- Vehicles must use designated access points and follow the trail requirements in each zone. Some zones require use of designated trails only and some have temporary dispersed use until trails are designated.
- Off-road vehicles are prohibited from operating in Preserve campgrounds, with the exception of Bear Island and Burn's Lake, for the purpose of accessing backcountry travel and return.
- Safety belts must be used by all passengers in all vehicles with seats which were originally equipped with them by the manufacturer (i.e. “gators”, “mules”, and any others meeting this requirement).
- Open containers of alcoholic beverages are prohibited on all ORVs.
- Speed limits are 15 miles per hour for wheeled vehicles and 30 miles per hour for airboats.
- Any device used to push aside, shear off, or otherwise damage vegetation is prohibited. Tire chains, bar grips and other devices affixed to tires are also prohibited.
- Vehicles parked at trailheads should not impede traffic flow on the road or access to the ORV trail.
- Airboats may travel on designated trails 50' from either side of trail markers when terrain permits.
- The number of riders allowed on an ATV/ATC is restricted to the number designed or intended for the use of a passenger, by the manufacturer.

CAMPING, HUNTING AND OTHER

Fires may be banned during high fire danger. Check bulletin boards for special regulations or announcements.

Individuals occupying a site may bring camping and/or hunting equipment onto the Preserve after 8 a.m. one day before the opening of each of the following hunting seasons and must remove such equipment from the Preserve before 6 p.m. one day after each season ends (applies to archery/muzzle loading, general gun and spring turkey seasons). Individuals who leave equipment unattended during the allowable time period must leave identification (name, address, phone number) clearly visible on the tree stand, tent, or similar equipment. Equipment must be removed between seasons.

In Zone 4 airboat users must camp in designated campsites only (1-17); backcountry camping is allowed in other areas of Zone 4 (except the seaside sparrow closure area) when access is gained by foot or non-motorized vessel, and the campsite is located at least 1/2 mile from the Loop Road and 1/4 mile from any designated campsite or airboat trail; no personal property can be left in the backcountry (tents, grills, cookware, tables, bedding, etc.) anywhere in Zone 4 when the user is not actively camping and staying overnight at the campsite.

All firearms and hunting weapons are allowed only during hunting season with the appropriate licenses. Target shooting is prohibited.

Weapons on ORVs must be unloaded and cased or stored in a manner that will prevent their ready use.

The shooting, hunting with or possession of loaded weapons within the campgrounds is prohibited.

- Those hunting or accompanying a hunter during muzzleloading and general gun season must wear at least 500 square inches of fluorescent orange material above the waistline as an outer garment.
- Recreational frogging is allowed throughout the year. Frogs may only be taken by the use of gigs. Artificial lights may only be used for frogging as spotlighting is prohibited for other species.
- Dogs are not permitted in the backcountry except for bird dogs and waterfowl retrievers are allowed for hunting purposes during the respective seasons.
- Generators are prohibited in the backcountry.

OTHER ISSUES

- The brochure does not address any management issues in the Addition Lands. The Addition Lands will remain closed to recreational ORV use pending the completion of a General Management Plan.
- The preserve’s enabling legislation provides for the usual and customary use and occupancy of the preserve by the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.
- A person convicted of violating a provision of the regulations within the Big Cypress National Preserve can be punished by a fine or imprisonment, or both as provided by law, and can be adjudged to pay all costs of the proceedings (36 CFR 1.3) ORV operators who do not comply with preserve rules or permit requirements can also have their permits suspended or revoked, can be required to pay restitution for injury caused to the resources, can be subject to seizure of their vehicle and other property used during the offense, and can be banned from applying for an ORV permit for a specified period.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Questions regarding the information within this brochure and map should be directed to the Chief Ranger's office at 239-695-1117. Further information about ORV permits, vehicle inspections and ORV operator's orientation courses should be directed to the visitor center at 239-695-1201. Detailed information can also be found on our website at www.nps.gov/bicy. Click on the “CURRENT HUNT/ORV REGS” button for ORV news and information. Any accident must be reported within 24 hours to the National Park Service. **IN CASE OF EMERGENCY WITHIN THE PRESERVE: 1-800-788-0511**